AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system which performs data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically,

characterized in that bits of data obtained according to the uniform data rate are assigned in such a manner that the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period ~~is~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time of one period, and wherein dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned.

2. (Currently Amended) A communication system which performs data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division

half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically,

characterized in that bits of data obtained according to the uniform data rate are assigned in such a manner that the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period ~~is~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period, and wherein dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the portion of the quasi-data transmission time to ~~which the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data ~~of a~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period ~~is~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~to be transmitted~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period are

assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and the bits for the obtained data ~~to be transmitted~~ are assigned in accordance with the selected mode.

4. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 2, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period are assigned to the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~to be transmitted~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and bits for the obtained data to be transmitted are assigned in accordance with the selected mode.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication system which performs data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission

time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically,

characterized in that data bits are reproduced according to the uniform data rate, such that all the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly reproduced during a given period are reproduced ~~based on the portion of the~~ from received data that was assigned to the data transmission time of one period.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication system which performs data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically,

characterized in that data bits are reproduced according to the uniform data rate, such that all the data ~~of one~~ bits uniformly reproduced for a given period are reproduced ~~based on the portion of the~~ from received data that was assigned to the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period.

7. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 5, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits to be uniformly reproduced during a given period ~~can be~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data bits to be ~~transmitted~~ uniformly reproduced during a given period are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and data bits are reproduced in accordance with the selected mode.

8. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 6, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data bits ~~of~~ to be uniformly reproduced during a given period ~~can be~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data to be ~~transmitted~~ uniformly reproduced during a

given period are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and data bits are reproduced in accordance with the selected mode.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication method of performing data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically, characterized in that bits of data obtained according to the uniform data rate are assigned in such a manner that the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period is transmitted during the data transmission time of one period, and wherein dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication method of performing data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the

data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically, characterized in that bits of data obtained according to the uniform data rate are assigned in such a manner that the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period is transmitted during the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period, and wherein dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the portion of the quasi-data transmission to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned.

11. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to claim 9, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period ~~is~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~to be transmitted~~ uniformly obtained during a given period are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and the obtained bits ~~for the data to be transmitted~~ are assigned in accordance with

the selected mode.

12. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to claim 10, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits uniformly obtained during a given period are assigned to the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data ~~to be transmitted~~ bits obtained uniformly during a given period are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and bits for the obtained data ~~to be transmitted~~ are assigned in accordance with the selected mode.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication method of performing data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically, characterized in that data bits are reproduced

according to the uniform data rate, such that all the data ~~of~~ bits uniformly reproduced during a given period are reproduced ~~based on the portion of the~~ from received data that was assigned to the data transmission time of one period.

14. (Currently Amended) A communication method of performing data communication by a discrete multi-tone modem scheme between a plurality of data communication units using the time-division half-duplex communication function, wherein the ratio between the data transmission time suitable for data transmission and the quasi-data transmission time other than the data transmission time within ~~one~~ each period of a uniform data rate changes dynamically, characterized in that data bits are reproduced according to the uniform data rate, such that all the data ~~of one~~ bits uniformly reproduced for a given period are reproduced ~~based on the portion of the~~ from received data assigned to the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period.

15. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to claim 13, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits to be uniformly reproduced during a

given period ~~can be~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data bits to be ~~transmitted~~ uniformly reproduced are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and data bits are reproduced in accordance with the selected mode.

16. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to claim 14, characterized by appropriately selecting a low transmission delay mode in which bits are assigned in such a manner that ~~the~~ data ~~of~~ bits to be uniformly reproduced during a given period ~~can be~~ are transmitted during the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time of one period and dummy bits are assigned to the portion of the data transmission time and the quasi-data transmission time to which ~~the~~ no data ~~to be transmitted has not~~ bits have been assigned, or a normal mode in which ~~the~~ data to be ~~transmitted~~ uniformly reproduced are assigned uniformly over the data transmission time, and data bits are reproduced in accordance with the selected mode.